

THE GATOR NEWSLETTER

NEWS AND NOTES

The new mailing address for the Tampa Marines is:

Name & Rank of Marine
1MarDiv, 4th AABN
HQSVC Co
UIC 39842
FPO AP 96426-9842

Websites you can visit to get information are:

www.3dasitphib.com
www.mfr.usmc.mil

Marines filled out hometown news releases before they were deployed. You can go to www.usafns.com to look up your Marine's release.

The 4th AA Bn Family Readiness Newsletter is intended to inform Marine families of their unit's activities and to make important information available to them. The 4th AA Bn is comprised of units from Tampa FL, Norfolk VA, Gulfport MS, Jacksonville FL, and Galveston TX. The 4th AA Battalion's web address is www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav. The site contains information on Family Readiness and the Key Volunteer Network

March 13, 2003

Just an update you can send to everyone.

It is very HOT and dusty. We had a dust storm last night that was amazing! You could not see anything. Today is very windy. A & B Co now have their equipment and as such, morale is up. Mail is flowing well. Letters are welcome.

Best wishes to all,

LtCol Parrish

Patrick Peterson, a reporter for the Sun Herald-South Mississippi's daily newspaper, is embedded with Company A, 4th AABN. These are our Gulfport, MS Marines. His web site is:

www.conspirasea.com/marines.html. This an excellent place for information about what 4th AABN did in California and things that are happening now. Though it focuses on what is going on with Company A it has information that all will find valuable.

www.nancec.org is a false website that misrepresenting itself as supporting military personnel during Operation Enduring Freedom. Do not use this website! If you have any organization solicit information about you or your family in the name of Family Readiness or as an entity working for the Department of Defense please do not release any information and

report that to your Key Volunteer.

In addition, there is another telephone scam going around. "DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE 809." Here is how it works: You will receive a message on your answering machine or pager, which asks you to call a number beginning with 809. You are told to call the number right away. Since there are so many area codes many people return this call. If you do call you will be charged

\$2,425 per minute. That is right you will be charged \$2,425 per minute!!!! They try to keep you on the phone as long as possible and some people have gotten bills for over \$24,000! Since this phone number is from the Virgin Islands it is considered a "pay per call" number. Ignore this area code and pass this information on to everybody.

Many of you have questions about your Marines while they are in Kuwait. Where are they, what are they doing? The truth is we don't have realtime information. There has been limited contact with 4th AA Bn since they deployed. In addition, because of operational security we can't tell you the exact position of our Marines. We know it can be frustrating not knowing enough about your loved ones but we will pass on any and all information that we receive and are allowed to give.

Attached to the newsletter is an article that was done by Captain Wright, the Commanding Officer of H & S Company from Tampa, FL. Though it is somewhat dated from the training that everyone received while at Camp Pendleton, it still shows the motivation that every Marine has, and that they are ready for anything that comes.

CHANGES IN THE KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

We have changed the structure of the Key Volunteer Network. The Key Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for the Key Volunteers. We had such a great response from our Marine families that many people became Key Volunteers. This showed fantastic motivation and it

looked like it would ease the work load on everyone. Unfortunately experience has shown this became too top heavy. Some people have had to respond to way to many e-mails and phone calls and this has slowed the information flow to our families. We have restructured the Key

Volunteer Network. Crystal Slaton will be the Key Volunteer Coordinator assisted by five "1st Call Key Volunteers." They in turn will contact eight Key Volunteers who will be responsible for Marine families on the Phonetree. This should make the whole process more efficient.